

RESTRICTED

[TOSHI TAKE ODAMURA, after having been duly sworn, testified at the Morotai Prisoners of War Camp, Morotai, Moluccas Group, Netherlands Indies, on 25 March 1946, as follows:

Q What is your full name, age, nationality, marital status and home address?

A Toshitake ODAMURA, 37 years old, Japanese, married, Soga-Ken, Oni-Gun, Mineniyana Mura, Oaza, Furui #8.

Q What was your rank in the Japanese Army?

A Major.]

Q When did you enter the Japanese Army?

A When I was 22 years old.

Q What is your military background?

A I was in military school till then and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1931. In March 1934 I was promoted to 1st Lieutenant; August 1937 promoted to Captain; August 1941 I was promoted to Major. I entered the Kenpei Tai in 1937 when I was a captain. I served in the Kenpei Tai as follows: 1 year in Tokyo; 1 year in Kobe; 1 year in Korea; 3 years in North China; 2 months in Manchuria; then I came to the Celebes.

Q Can you speak English?

A Yes, a little.

Q Where did you learn to read, write, and speak English?

A At military school.

Q Do you need an interpreter to understand my questions and to make answers to them?

A No, not if you talk slowly and use short words.

Q We will do as you ask. If you need the interpreter please ask for him and he will interpret for you. Do you understand that?

A Yes; I will try my best but I may need an interpreter.

Q Then we will use the interpreter throughout and he will give all questions and answers to that there will be no error. Is that satisfactory?

A Yes, sir.

Q When did you come to the Celebes?

A About April 20, 1944.

Q Of what unit were you a member when you first came to the Celebes?

A 8th Field Kenpei Tai.

Q Where were its headquarters located?

A Washiro, Palnabera. We reported there and from Palnabera we were dispatched to other places.

Q What was your position in the Kenpei Tai when you arrived at Manado?

A I was at that time Major and I was chief of the Kenpei Tai.

Q What area did you personally command?

A Everywhere from north of Gorontalo excluding the Island of Manado.

Q As chief of the Manado Area Kenpei Tai, were you in sole and complete and absolute charge of that entire area?

A Yes, but I was under the command of the 2nd Area Army headquarters.

Q What was the unit designation of the M.P. unit of which you were chief?

A The name of my unit was Manado Area Kenpei Tai. Afterwards the name of my unit was Celebes Area Kenpei Tai. The name only was changed, but the area remained the same.

Q Give us a complete organizational chart of your organization giving names and ranks of all members of your unit.

A

ANAMI (Gen.)
SECOND AREA ARMY

ENDO (Maj.-Gen.)
57th INDEPENDENT MIXED BRIGADE

ODAMURA (Maj.)
MANADO AREA KENPEI TAI

JUDICIAL
W/O MATSUOTO, Kunio

TOKKO
W/O MATSUMOTO, Kunio
TEUTSUMI, Okado.
OKA

GEN. AFFAIRS
ICHIHASHI, Shigeo
KOBAYASHI
SASAKURA

SUZUKI
MITOMI
KINOSHITA
KAWASHIMA

Q During the time that you were chief of such Kenpei Tai how many Allied airmen were captured by your unit or were captured by other units and turned over to members of your unit?

A I remember six men being captured.

Q Tell me the date, the exact details and all other surrounding information concerning the capture and execution of the first of these Allied airmen.

A The first was about the 3rd or 4th of September 1944 when two airmen came down by parachute near the airfield of Langoan.

Q Were you at Langoan at that time?

A At that time I was at Tonohon at the Second Area Army Headquarters and I was orally ordered by Staff Officer, Lt.-Col. KODAMATSU, to go to Langoan and bring back the two birdmen.

Q Did you ever make a report to higher headquarters about MATSUMOTO?

A Yes, sir, I reported that MATSUMOTO is a very good worker and that if I am absent he can and does carry on the business of the Kenpei Tai in my place.

Q From whom did you get initial information concerning the capture of these two airmen?

A When I received orders from Staff Officer KODAMATSU ordering me to proceed to Langoan to escort these prisoners to Tonohon. About 15 minutes after I received this order, my telephone orderly informed me that Lt. SAITO who was commanding the Langoan Military Police unit had telephoned and informed me of the capture of the two airmen.

Q About how long after this telephone message did you leave for Langoan?

A About one hour.

Q Who accompanied you on this trip?

A Cpl. KIMISHIMA, another whose name I do not remember, and also a chauffeur who drove the car, I do not remember his name.

Q What time exactly did you leave Tonohon for Langoan?

A I think at about 11 o'clock in the morning. I arrived at Langoan at 12 o'clock noon.

Q Tell us your exact movements upon arriving at Langoan?

A I took dinner quickly and heard a report from Lt. SAITO, later promoted to Captain. At half past one we started from Langoan by truck.

- Q Did you see or question the Americans?
A No.
- Q With whom did you take dinner at Langoan?
A With Lt. SAITO, Sgt/Maj. MORIMOTO, and, I believe, Cpl. OKADA, from Langoan Kempei Tai.
- Q During dinner was the subject of discussion the capture of the two airmen?
A We did not talk about the two airmen.
- Q What was the subject of conversation then?
A The conversation was that the bombing of Langoan was very severe and that it was so sudden that they did not have time to escape to the air-raid shelters.
- Q Were the fliers questioned by you at any time while you were in Langoan?
A Only for about 20 minutes, after the noon meal, and then they were taken to Tonohon.
- Q When you started back for Tonohon with the two airmen who accompanied you?
A Cpl. KAWASHIMA and another corporal, I do not exactly remember his name, but I think it was OKA.
- Q Did you return to Tonohon in the same vehicle that you arrived at Langoan in?
A Yes, it was the same truck and it was also used by the Kempei Tai for getting airplane parts and other things.
- Q Who turned these two airmen over into your custody at Langoan?
A Lt. SAITO.
- Q At the time that Lt. Saito turned these airmen over to you did he also give you any reports concerning these airmen or did you give him any receipt for these airmen?
A Lt. SAITO said that he was writing out a report but that he had not finished it yet; so he said he would send it afterward.
- Q When did you receive such report?
A The next day about 11 o'clock in the morning. This report was transmitted by a military car which brought messages from Hanado to Tonohon.
- Q Upon receiving this report did you read it?
A Yes, I read it thoroughly.

- Q Tell us exactly what that report contained.
A It contained the names, the ranks, the place and date of capture, and the nationality of the airmen. I can not remember the names, but I do remember that they were both sergeants, their nationality I remember was American. I do not know for sure, but I think that the date of their capture was the 3rd of September, 1944. I am certain however, that these airmen were captured on the same day I received the telephone message about their capture from Lt. SAITO.
- Q At what time did you arrive with the two airmen at Tenchen?
A 4:30 in the afternoon.
- Q Why did it take you so long?
A Because we stopped at all villages on the way back and spread propoganda on the B-24 which was shot down by Japanese planes. I was ordered to do so by Col. KODAMATSU before I left Tenchen for Langoan.
- Q Did SAITO's report say that a B-24 was shot down?
A The report so said, and SAITO personally told me that on that day 17 B-24s raided Langoan.
- Q Tell us exactly what happened upon your arrival at Tenchen with the two Americans?
A I went to Headquarters and reported to Staff Officer KODAMATSU. The two airmen were placed in the Kenpei Tai at Tenchen because there was no place in Headquarters. On the next day the two airmen were given rest as they were tired. The day after the next day W/O MATSUMOTO interrogated the two airmen through an interpreter. I think the interpreter was Akemi SHINOHARA, a Japanese civilian attached to the Army. He is now at Bitang, Northern Celebes.
- Q What did MATSUMOTO report to you was said at this interrogation?
A He gave me a report of 8 pages but I am sorry I do not remember exactly the contents. One of these documents was sent to Headquarters of Second Area Army.
- Q You spoke to MATSUMOTO about the questioning, didn't you?
A Yes, sir.
- Q What did he say?
A He said the two airmen were still healthy and full of pep and that it was very easy to make a report as they answered quickly all the things that they knew.

- Q What did they know and tell MATSUMOTO?
A The airmen told MATSUMOTO how fast a B-24 could fly, how much bombs it carry, how many machine guns it has, how many men it carry. They also said that in Morotai there were about 60 B-24s and that Japanese planes from time to time came to Morotai.
- Q What names did MATSUMOTO tell you these Americans had?
A I am sorry I cannot remember.
- Q What did they ~~stand~~ like?
A One was Frank UBELT (FUBERT? UBERT) and the other was Charles ALBERT.
- Q Tell us everything that happened concerning these two Americans after MATSUMOTO interrogated them.
A They stayed in the cell of the Kenpei Tai by order of Staff Officer KODAMATSU. They stayed there I think about one week or 10 days.
- Q During that one week or ten days how many times were they interrogated?
A After MATSUMOTO had interrogated the two airmen it was reported to Headquarters and he did not question any more.
- Q Did Col. KODAMATSU come down during that period of 7 days or 10 days?
A Yes, sir. Three times.
- Q Each time he saw the American prisoners, did he not?
A No. The first time he went to the cell and questioned the prisoners. He asked the possibility of the landing of Allied forces in Celebes and if so when they would land. The second time he spoke to the prisoners and third time he just saw the prisoners but did not speak to them.
- Q How soon after KODAMATSU came down the last time was any order given to you concerning the two Americans?
A At the last time he came to the Kenpei Tai he ordered that the two Americans should be killed that same night.
- Q Give me the sequence of events that occurred after you brought the two Americans from Languan to Tenobon, telling me all conversations that occurred with you present or conversations overheard by you.
A KODAMATSU saw the Americans the first day I brought them from Languan. He saw them two other times before they were executed. Once he questioned them. W/O MATSUMOTO was eager to kill the Americans and

asked me for permission several times. I told him the first time that I had no authority and that I would have to go to Headquarters to get the authority. I did not go that day. MATSUMOTO then asked me three times altogether to go to Headquarters for the authority. Finally, on the morning of the day of the execution, MATSUMOTO asked me again and so I went to Headquarters and spoke to Col. KODAMATSU in his office. No one was present except the Colonel and myself. I told Col. KODAMATSU that it would be better to send the men to the POW Camp at Java but Col. KODAMATSU said that war conditions did not permit it and also that because of possible American landings it was necessary to execute the Americans because they might give away some of the Japanese secrets. I told KODAMATSU that I did not think it advisable because it was against international law but KODAMATSU told me that the prisoners of war were under the jurisdiction of the Second Area Army Headquarters and that the Kempei Tai was only holding them temporarily for disposition by Second Area Army Headquarters. He said that the Americans must be executed. I said "goodbye" and left.

Q What happened after that?

A That same day after supper while it was slightly dark but still light, Col. KODAMATSU came up the stone steps which were between the bathroom and the general office. At that time I was in the bathroom. Col. KODAMATSU, in a loud voice which I could clearly hear even though I was in the bathroom, said that the Americans would have to be executed that very same evening. W/O MATSUMOTO then came to the bathroom and told me Col. KODAMATSU was there. I went out and saw him. KODAMATSU told me to execute the two airmen that same night. MATSUMOTO and I were there when KODAMATSU told me these words. I said, "Yes, is that so!" KODAMATSU then left to go to the house of his girl friend. After KODAMATSU left I turned to MATSUMOTO and said, "I don't like such a matter. I leave it up to you". MATSUMOTO said, "I will do it". I then left for my house where I played mahjong all evening.

Q What did MATSUMOTO do that evening?

A I do not know what MATSUMOTO did because I did not see him after I went home. The next day, however, at one o'clock in the afternoon I saw MATSUMOTO at my office room and MATSUMOTO reported to me. He said, "Everything has been completed". I knew what MATSUMOTO

was talking about but I did not want to hear the details I told MATSUMOTO to go to Col. KODAMATSU and report.

Q Where is KODAMATSU now?

A He left the Celebes on December 1, 1944 and went to Singkang. I heard that he went to Burma from there at the end of 1944 or the early part of 1945. I heard that he was there until the end of the war but I do not remember who told me.

Q Give me a complete description of KODAMATSU.

A He was Chief or Commander of the 61st Infantry Regiment. He was about 43 years old; 5'3"; 60 kilograms; clean-shaven; glasses, black horn-rimmed; no facial disfigurements or scars; two or three gold teeth -- molars, left side, lower; long face; prominent jawbone; loud, bass voice; clear voice; close cropped hair, not bald.

Q During the whole period of September and October 1945 were you in complete and exclusive charge of the Kenpei Tai at Tomohon?

A Yes, I was.

Q Who was your immediate superior?

A Staff Officer, Lt.-Col. KODAMATSU. I reported everything to him, including the matter of the two Americans, and he relayed all orders to me. Over him was the Chief of Staff whose name I do not remember and above the Chief of Staff was full General ANAMI, Kerechika.

Q Where were the two Americans buried after being executed?

A MATSUI OTO told me about a month later that it was behind the Kenpei Tai in a field.

Q Who was Sgt. OKI, Teoru?

A A soldier working in my office.

Q OKI says that he knows nothing about KODAMATSU giving you the order to execute the Americans.

A OKI could not have known it because he did not go to headquarters. Other Kenpei Tais know that Col. KODAMATSU gave orders to me.

Q Why is it that in a previous statement to Lt. FLINT of the Australian Army you said that OKI knows about it and now you say that he does not know anything about it?

↑
 [NETHERLANDS INDIES)
) SS
 ISLAND OF MOROTAI)

I, MASAO DOUE, T/3, ASN 30111100, War Crimes Branch, being duly sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing eight (8) pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

/s/ Masao Doue
 MASAO DOUE

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22 day of March, 1946.

/s/ Morris D. Forkosch
 MORRIS D. FORKOSCH, 2nd Lt., INF.
 Investigating Officer, War Crimes
 Investigating Detachment.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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 We, EDWARD W. GREGORY, 1st Lt., O-1590553, QMC and MORRIS D. FORKOSCH, 2nd Lt., O-1336900, INF., certify that on 25th day of March, 1946, personally appeared before us, TOSHITAKE ODAMURA, and according to MASAO DOUE, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said TOSHITAKE ODAMURA had read to him by the said interpreter the same and affixed his signature thereto in our presence.

Island of Morotai
 (Place)

/s/ Edward W. Gregory
 EDWARD W. GREGORY, 1st Lt., QMC
 Investigating Officer, War Crimes
 Investigating Detachment

29 March 46
 (Date)

/s/ Morris D. Forkosch
 MORRIS D. FORKOSCH, 2nd Lt., INF.
 Investigating Officer, War Crimes
 Investigating Detachment.]